

"BRINGING HOME BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK"

2013 - 2014 EXPLORER & EXPEDITION COMPETITION

**“Bringing Home Biscayne National Park”
Explorer and Expedition Programs Competition**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page #
Program Overview	3
FAQ & Participation Requirements	3-6
Description of Events and Judging Criteria	7-16
Entry Submission Form	17

“Bringing Home Biscayne National Park” Explorer and Expedition Programs Competition

Program Overview

Mission Statement

To cultivate values and behaviors among our community which lead to the preservation and protection of Biscayne's natural, historic, and cultural resources."

Goals of the Program

By participating in our Biscayne Explorer or Biscayne Expedition field trips, students are able to experience the park with their schoolmates and teachers. Usually, parents are not able to enjoy the park first hand themselves when their children come on field trips. The goal of the "Bringing Home Biscayne" Competition is to extend upon the field trip experience by having students compete in several events of their choosing in order for them and their families to gain a greater appreciation for Biscayne National Park and the environment in general.

FAQ & Participation Requirements

Who can participate in this competition?

Teachers who have been selected to attend the Explorer or Expedition programs and have registered online will be able to submit entries on behalf of their school.

How many entries will be allowed per school?

Schools may participate in as many or as few events as they choose. Each event will be judged individually so there will not be a cumulative total number of points to earn. Therefore, please note that each event has its own specific requirements, so refer to the Entry Guidelines and Judging Criteria beginning on **page 7** of this guide.

Because of the diverse nature of the entries, we suggest that you may want to reach out to other teachers at your school and invite them to form collaborative partnerships with you on these projects. There may be parents who have talents or resources they can contribute to your efforts.

What will we be looking for in your entries?

We've tried to compile a selection of events that would appeal to many different personalities, interests, and abilities among your students while allowing you to effectively tie events in to your existing curriculum requirements. This is also an opportunity for students to showcase their talents, imagination, creativity, and enthusiasm in a different setting.

We request that all student work must be original works that are free from plagiarism, be ethically

conscious, and Earth friendly.

How will you know if your entry will be accepted for judging?

Each entry has clearly stated objectives and product specifications that must be met to be considered for judging. You are encouraged to read each event carefully to avoid any misunderstandings. If in doubt, please contact us for clarification.

When should my students begin working on their entries?

As you prepare your class for the field trip experience, you may want to introduce the elements of the competition to them so that when they visit the park they may be on the lookout for ideas to use in their entries. It is NOT advisable to have them begin working on their entries until they visit the park in order for the projects to be more meaningful for them.

Once your class returns from the field trip experience, you can have them brainstorm ideas and dig deeper into the events themselves. At that point you can help them develop a timeline that will help them stay on track and allow you enough time to monitor their progress and provide feedback. You may choose to assign this project as a graded assignment, extra credit, or encourage participation by tapping into their competitive natures.

What documentation is required?

Once you and your students have decided which event or events you would like to compete in, make a copy of the entry form for each project you plan to submit for judging. This form must accompany each of your entries. (refer to page of this guide for a copy of the entry form)

How will you submit your entries?

Most entries will be submitted electronically, while three specific entries must be delivered in person (see deadline dates below). For those entries that will be submitted electronically including all written and pre-recorded performances, an Internet based “Drop Box” will be established for this purpose. You will be given this information once you register for the competition. Internet sites such as You Tube, School Tube, and Vimeo are excellent avenues to upload your recorded performances. All you would need to do is provide us with the link and email the necessary paperwork (as attachments).

Please note that if you are unable to submit electronically, contact us so we can arrange for you to drop off your entry at the park's Education Department.

What are the deadlines for submission of projects?

- Submissions for Explorer Program field trips (October-December) will be accepted from **February 12-15th, 2014.**
- Submission for Expedition Program field trips (January-March) will be accepted from

April 9-12th, 2014

- The only items that will be *physically* submitted are Entry #1 (Artwork) Entry #2 (Photographs) and Entry #9 the Science Fair Boards. These should be delivered to the park along with entry documents **between March 31-April 12th ONLY**.

What criteria will be used for judging entries?

All entries have a point value assigned. Points will be calculated using a rubric that has been included for each event. Be sure to carefully look over the rubrics and guidelines for each event so that you have a clear understanding of the expectations.

Who will be judging the events?

An independent panel made up of members from our local community has been established and invited to serve as judges for this event. Three (3) judges will be assigned to each event according to their area of expertise, demonstrated talent, or ability.

When will the judging take place?

Final judging will take place on **Friday May 2nd and Saturday May 3rd**.

When and how will schools be notified of their results?

Schools will be provided with their final score results once all judging is completed. Schools will be sent an email with their respective scores on **Monday, May 5, 2014**.

Will there be an award ceremony?

Yes, there will be an award ceremony on **Saturday, May 17th, 2014**. We look forward to celebrating everyone's participation in our first annual competition. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for each event category. **All** participants (regardless of their placement category) will be acknowledged for their contribution so we encourage all students, parents, and teachers their to attend the May showcase event and be recognized for their wonderful efforts.

What will happen to our entries once the competition is over?

By participating in this competition, schools and students agree to Biscayne National Park's use of all entries for the purpose of exhibiting, publishing, and promotion of Biscayne National Park.

All works of art, photographs, and Science Boards will be returned to students the night of the showcase. Those students who are unable to be present will have to arrange to pick up their work within a week of the showcase event. The park will discard any work that is not picked up within a week after the event (May 25th, 2014).

Do we need to obtain signed photographic release forms from parents?

Please advise students and parents that are taking part in this competition, that unless they notify us in writing, they have agreed to allow photographs or videotaping of their participation and their entries during this event.

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT CATEGORIES & REQUIREMENTS

CAN BE FOUND BEGINNING ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Event #1 - Artistic Rendition
Images of Biscayne National Park On Canvas

Objective: Students have an opportunity to show off their artistic ability by creating a work of art that represents their favorite image or scene of Biscayne National Park

Product: Pencil, Acrylic, Watercolor, Pastel, Oil, or Mixed Media (no digital art media please)

Notation: Top entries will be exhibited in the park's art gallery during the May 17th, 2014 award ceremony at Biscayne National Park.

Judging Criteria: (4 point scale – maximum of 24 points)

1. Is the work visually attractive and appealing?
2. Does the work demonstrate a good use of design, form, line, color, and/or texture?
3. Does the work demonstrate elements of originality, creativity, uniqueness and age appropriate imagination?
4. Does the artwork highlight good quality of workmanship?
5. Does the artwork provide an appropriately finished look?
6. How well does the artwork represent the theme?

Specifications:

- Size: 8x10 – 11x14
- Two (2) submissions per school

Include the following on the back of the project:

- Name of Student
- School
- Grade
- Title of Work

Event #2 - Photography
Biscayne National Park: Photographic Journey Amidst Nature's Finest Wonders

Objective: Students who love photography may use their cameras to capture images of Biscayne's scenic and natural beauty.

Product: Photographs should be only of the natural elements found in the park. Selecting from their favorite pictures, students may create one of two options:

- Photographic collage (several pictures in a grouped setting)
- Single Photograph

Top entries will be exhibited in the park's art gallery during the May 17th, 2014 award ceremony at Biscayne National Park.

Notation: Only original photographs will be accepted. No copies of "clips" from the Internet will be allowed.

Judging Criteria: (4 point scale – maximum of 24 points)

1. Is the work visually attractive and appealing?
2. Is the photograph focused, sharp, and clear; using appropriate lighting?
3. Does the work demonstrate elements of originality, creativity, uniqueness and age appropriate ability?
4. Does the photograph demonstrate appropriate technical composition (i.e. balanced and shot from a good angle) ?
5. Does the photograph capture the essence of its subject?
6. How well does the photo represent the theme?

Specifications:

- Size: 8x10 – 11x14
- 2 options
- No Photoshop enhanced entries will be accepted
- Two (2) submissions per school

Include the following on the back of the project:

- Name of Student
- School
- Grade
- Title of Work

Event #3 - Musical Performance
Biscayne's Got Talent!

Objective: Have students share what they've learned and inspire others to visit and experience the park for themselves through music and song.

"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent."

~ Victor Hugo

Product: vocal performance. Any musical genre will be acceptable as long as it contains no inappropriate or offensive language.

Notations:

Lyrics should be typed and submitted along with the prerecorded performance for judging. All song lyrics should be student written original work, but accompanying background music may be from popular musical selections such as music used during Karaoke performances.

Limited to 6 performers for the group. Finalists will be invited to perform in front of a live audience during the award ceremony at Biscayne National Park.

Judging Criteria: (4 point scale – maximum of 28 points)

1. Does the performance capture and keep the audiences' attention and provide entertainment value?
2. Is the work interesting, appealing, and provide inspiration for the audience?
3. Is the work unique, creative, imaginative, and of age appropriate ability?
4. Does the performance seem to flow smoothly?
5. For **Individual** Performance:

Was there a serious level of preparation demonstrated during the performance?

For **Group** Performance:

How well did the group rate for teamwork and participation? Were they well prepared?

6. How well does the performance represent the theme for this event?
7. Was there an attitude of professionalism and commitment to the project demonstrated throughout the performance?

Specifications:

- Group or individual performance
- Limited to 3 minutes
- Lyrics and/or prerecorded performance must be submitted in advance
- One (1) submission per school

Include:

- Name of Student(s)
- School
- Grade
- Title of Work

Event #4 – Dramatic Skit
Biscayne National Park: A Day In The Life of a _____ Habitat

Objective: Broadway here we come! Students will choose their favorite park habitat and create a dramatic interpretation of a typical day in that habitat.

Product: Be sure to include the good, the bad, and the ugly side of the story. Make the inhabitants and plants that live in your chosen habitat come alive through personification and don't be afraid to have them interact with humans who are really the only ones that can help. Who will represent the heroes and villains fighting it out everyday for their survival? In the battles waged against pollution, overcrowding, limited resources, invasive species, climate change, human impact and sea level rise: who will be the winners? Who will be defeated?

Notation: Should be a group performance, limited to 10 participants and include student created props and costumes made from recycled or reused materials. Background music is allowed for extra effect. Finalists will be invited to perform in front of a live audience during the award ceremony in May at Biscayne National Park.

Judging Criteria: (4 point scale – maximum of 40 points)

1. Does the performance capture and keep the audiences' attention and provide entertainment value?
2. Is the work interesting, appealing, and provide inspiration for the audience?
3. Is the work unique, creative, imaginative, and of age appropriate ability?
4. Does the performance seem to flow smoothly?
5. Was there a serious level of preparation demonstrated during the performance?
6. How well did the group rate for teamwork and participation?
7. How well does the performance represent the theme for this event?
8. Was there an attitude of professionalism and commitment to the project demonstrated throughout the performance?
9. Where the props and costumes appropriate? Where recycled or reused items implemented?
10. If a group performance, how did it rate for teamwork and participation?

Specifications:

- Must be original work
- Limited to 5 minutes
- Script and prerecorded performance must be submitted in advance
- One (1) submission per school

Include:

- Name of Students
- School
- Grade
- Title of Work

Event #5 – Interpretive Dance
So You Think You Can Dance? Try Dancing at the Park!

Objective: Students will choreograph a dance routine (hip hop, ballet, jazz, tap, etc.) that tells a story about the park and conveys a positive and moving message to those that experience it.

Product: This dance routine can represent any aspect of the historic, natural, cultural, or scientific nature of the park. The goal is to reach out to the audience so they can connect with you and the park in a totally different way.

Notation: Group performance limited to 10 participants and must include student created props and costumes made from recycled or reused materials. Background music is allowed for extra effect. Finalists will be invited to perform in front of a live audience during the award ceremony in May at Biscayne National Park.

Judging Criteria: (4 point scale – maximum of 40 points)

1. Does the performance capture and keep the audiences' attention and provide entertainment value?
2. Is the work interesting, appealing, and provide inspiration for the audience?
3. Is the work unique, creative, imaginative, and of age appropriate ability?
4. Does the performance seem to flow smoothly?
5. Was there a serious level of preparation demonstrated during the performance?
6. How well did the group rate for teamwork and participation?
7. How well does the performance represent the theme for this event?
8. Was there an attitude of professionalism and commitment demonstrated throughout the performance?
9. Where the props and costumes appropriate? Where recycled or reused items implemented?
10. If a group performance, how did it rate for teamwork and participation?

Specifications:

- Must be an original work
- Limited to 3 minutes
- Prerecorded performance must be submitted in advance for judging
- May be a group or individual performance
- One (1) submission per school

Include:

- Name of Students
- School
- Grade
- Title of Work

Event #6 – Podcast / Infomercial
Biscayne National Park: What's going on down there?

Objective: Create an infomercial about Biscayne National Park.

Product: The goal of this event is to create a 3-5 minute infomercial that would reach out to audiences living right here in our backyard. It should be “kid friendly” and not just providing information about the park, but should also include personal experiences with the park. You want to let everyone know ***“What’s going on down there?”*** and make it clear why we should want to visit and more importantly, why should we care to protect it.

Notation: Infomercials take on many forms. It can be in the form of an interview(s), a newscast event, a scientific discovery, or even a public service announcement. Infomercials sometimes are created in a story-like sequence. Student created props or visuals from recycled or reused materials may be used in order to enhance the effect. Students may want to watch a few infomercials and conduct research on their use just to have a better understanding of the concept.

Finalists in this event will have their infomercial broadcast in the park’s theater during the May award ceremony at Biscayne National Park and on the park’s website.

Judging Criteria: (4 point scale – maximum of 44 points)

1. Does the performance capture and keep the audiences' attention and provide entertainment value?
2. Is the work interesting, appealing, and provide inspiration for the audience?
3. Is the work unique, creative, imaginative, and of age appropriate ability?
4. Does the performance seem to flow smoothly?
5. Was there a serious level of preparation demonstrated during the performance?
6. How well did the group rate for teamwork and participation?
7. How well does the performance represent the theme for this event?
8. Was there an attitude of professionalism and commitment demonstrated throughout the performance?
9. Where the props and costumes appropriate? Where recycled or reused items implemented?
10. Would you want to broadcast this as public service announcement?
11. Does the finished product demonstrate professional qualities (i.e. image did not shake, audio/video was clear and crisp)?

Specifications:

- Must be an original work
- Written script and a 3-5 minute prerecorded performance must be submitted in advance for judging
- May be a group or individual presentation
- Two (2) submissions per school

Include:

- Name of Student(s)
- School
- Grade
- Title of Work

Event # 7 - Persuasive Essay
What Might Be The Future of Biscayne National Park and What Will We Do To Help?

Objective: It is said that words can be very powerful and can move mountains. Students will use their writing ability to speak out about the wonders of Biscayne National Park and the challenges its inhabitants face from all manner of environmental issues.

Product: The essay should attempt to persuade the reader to become more concerned about the future of the park and perhaps inspire them to become more involved in protecting this special place for future generations.

Notation: students should conduct research regarding this topic before preparing their essay. Perhaps a visit to the park and interviewing a Ranger might be helpful as well.

Student finalists will be asked to read their essay during the award ceremony in May at Biscayne National Park. Essays will be compiled into a book format and kept at the Park as part of our outreach program.

Judging Criteria: (4 point scale – maximum of 32 points)

1. Introduction grabs the reader's attention.
2. The writer's point of view and issue are clearly stated.
3. Reasons stated are in order of importance.
4. Evidence supports each reason for the opinion and reflects a consistent point of view.
5. Body of the essay elaborates upon the reasons and evidence.
6. Proper use of transitional words and phrases is clearly evident. Ideas are well connected.
7. Standard English spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are used appropriately.
8. Standard English grammar and sentence structure with varied beginning are used appropriately.

Specifications:

- Must be an original work
- Must be submitted in advance for judging
- Individual entry
- One (1) submission per school

Include:

- Name of Student
- School
- Grade
- Title of Work

Event #8 - Poetry
The Art of Poetry and Expression at Biscayne National Park

Objective: Students will write a poem expressing their feelings or views about Biscayne National Park.

“Poetry is thoughts that breathe, and words that burn. ~ Thomas Gray

Product: Any poetic format (sonnet, acrostic, haiku, cinquian, ode, limerick, blank verse or other) will be acceptable. Poems must be relevant to the student’s first hand experience at the park and therefore the source for inspiration.

Notation: Student finalists will be asked to read their poem during the award ceremony in May at Biscayne National Park. Poems will be compiled into a book format and kept at the Park as part of our outreach program.

Judging Criteria: (4 point scale – maximum of 16 points)

1. Student creatively uses appropriate poetic form.
2. Student's use of vocabulary is precise, vivid, and paints a clear picture in the reader's mind.
3. Has grade-level appropriate spelling, grammar, punctuation; contains few if any errors that do not interfere with the reader's understanding.
4. Student's work demonstrates a complete understanding of the assignment and goes beyond the requirements.

Specifications:

- Must be an original work
- Must be submitted in advance for judging
- Individual entry
- Two (2) submissions per school

Include:

- Name of Student
- School
- Grade
- Title of Work

Event #9 – Science Fair Project

Objective: Students will complete a science fair project where the subject of the investigation should relate to matters that have an impact on Biscayne National Park and/or surrounding areas. (Examples: water quality monitoring, effects of pollution on the bay, coral bleaching, impacts of climate change, global warming, decline in species biodiversity, or other similar subject).

Product: Schools will submit a Science Fair Board exemplifying the correct and proper use of the Scientific Method of Investigation. Photographs displayed on the board that were taken while data collecting and conducting the experiment would be very helpful during the judging process. Please note that student faces should not be visible in the photographs displayed).

Notation: Schools will select ONE Science Fair Project to represent their school for this event. The project must relate to the subject matter as stated in the objective. Reports are not to be included with the board.

Judging Criteria: based on MDCPS Science Fair Scoring Guidelines (3 point scale – maximum of 36 points)

1. Problem: to what degree is the problem new and/or different for the student and how well is it written?
2. Hypothesis: To what degree is this a testable prediction?
3. Experimental Design: How well is the plan developed to validate the hypothesis?
4. Experimental Procedures: To what degree does the sequential experimental process connect the hypothesis, data, and results?
5. Variables and Controls: How well are the variables identified and controlled?
6. Materials/Equipment: How were the items utilized in appropriate and/or new ways?
7. Data Collection: To what degree are the method, number of trials, and quantity of data appropriate?
8. Data Presentation: How well do the graphs, tables, logs, pictures, and charts, etc. present the data?
9. Data Analysis: How well are the results interpreted? How well have the possible errors been analyzed?
10. Outcomes: How well are the conclusions and/or products identified and interpreted? How important are the findings?
11. Applications: How well are new relationships, new ideas and/or additional investigations identified and presented?
12. Visual Display: How well is the project constructed and organized? Are spelling and sentence structure correct?

Event #9 – Science Fair Project

Specifications:

- Must be an original investigation
- Must be submitted in advance for judging
- Individual or group entry (limit 4 members for the team)
- One (1) submission per school

Include:

- Name of Student(s)
- School
- Grade
- Title of Work

"BRINGING HOME BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK"
2013 - 2014 EXPLORER & EXPEDITION COMPETITION

EVENT ENTRY FORM

In order to be considered for judging, **each** event entry must be accompanied by this form. Fill it out completely and provide all the required information. Once completed, simply email the form and your electronic submission (as an attachment or link) to BNP. Except for Events #1, #2, and #9, which must be physically delivered to the park, all other entries must be submitted electronically.

School:	
Contact Phone:	
Teacher(s):	
Email:	
Grade:	
Name of Student(s):	
Event # and Title:	